Intrusion by Pakistan spying aircraft

†1402. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) number of times Pakistan's spying aircraft intruded in Indian territory by violating international border during the last year; and

(b) the concrete steps taken by Government to prevent it?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There were seven incidents of violation of Indian air space by Pakistan's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) during the last year (1st January, 2002 to 31st December, 2002).

(b) The Indian Air Force has the requisite air defence mechanisms in place to monitor and thwart intrusions by any aircraft. Protests are also lodged with the concerned country through diplomatic channels.

Intrusion by Pakistan's surveillance aircraft in poonch

†1403. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an unmanned surveillance aircraft of Pakistan had recently entered into Indian airspace in mater sector of District Poonch on a spying mission;

(b) if so, whether India had shot down the aircraft by anti-aircraft gun;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government of India has lodged any protest with the Government of Pakistan in this regard; and

(e) if so, reaction of Government of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. One Pakistani Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) that intruded into Indian air space on 5th February, 2003 was shot down in Mendhar, J&K.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government of Pakistan has not responded.

Modernisation of defence production units

1404. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to invite Foreign Direct Investment in defence production sector;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) how does Government propose to modernise the defence production units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Taking into account *inter alia* the capital intensive nature of Defence Industry, the substantial annual outgo of funds on defence imports, the need to modernize the sector and bring in state-of-the -art technologies, in May, 2001, the Government decided to open Defence Industry for Indian private sector upto 100%, with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) permissible upto 26%, with subject to licensing.

(c) In case of Defence Production Units, modernisation is taken up on a regular basis keeping in view the futuristic requirements of Armed Forces.

Land for expansion and development programmes

1405. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has asked the Mazagon Dock Ltd., to return the land which was earlier given to it for expansion and developmental programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken up the issue with the State Government and persuade it to review its stand;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Maharashtra Government thereto; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?